

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

Please amend the following claims.

sub C₁ 1. (Amended) A unitary absorbent structure, comprising:

an upper fibrous layer having a liquid acquisition zone extending to one surface and a liquid distribution zone extending to another surface;

a lower fibrous liquid storage layer in liquid communication with the distribution zone surface of said upper layer, said storage layer including superabsorbent polymer particles; and

B1 a containment layer surrounding the storage layer and extending to outer edges of said structure, said containment layer containing fibers and superabsorbent polymer particles of said storage layer against a distribution zone surface of the upper layer, and wherein the containment layer is sealed to at least one edge of said upper fibrous layer.

sub C₂ B2 8. (Amended) The structure of claim 1 wherein said containment layer comprises thermoplastic film selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.